



VCS OWNERS CLUB BULLETIN

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AB 25 SUMMER 1983



PLAYER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

The title of 'national' champion, the **Atari Player of the Year**; a trip to Munich in Germany for an 'international final' and the chance of watching the Olympics live in Los Angeles, USA — all of this is yours for the taking!

But first you must prove yourself to be the greatest Atari player in the United Kingdom.

Phoenix in the early stages in May; Ms Pac-Man at the Regionals in July and Centipede at the national finals in August are the cartridges which will test your dexterity, skill and Atarian determination. Not only will you have to master these three dynamic and devastating games but you must also triumph over other deadly keen and serious Atarians from all over the country.

How do you start? Before your mind begins to race with dreams of glory, fame and jet-set travel, you must enter the competition. Go to your local Atari dealer which may be a branch of one of the larger stores or an independent shop, which is displaying the special Atari competition posters, and find out when the competition is to be run. Then enter and have a go at tackling the fabulous Phoenix game under supervised, timed conditions.

As an added bonus all those entering the competition will receive a £5 voucher redeemable against selected Atari hardware and software — you just can't lose!

After your single game entry the competition supervisor will take your form, sign it and send it to Atari along with other fellow hopefuls. The top Phoenix players in each of the six competition regions will then be invited to battle with Ms Pac-Man at a series of six regional heats at the venues below:

Newcastle — 2 July — North East

— — — — —

Manchester — 16 July — North West

Birmingham — 23 July — Midlands

Bristol — 30 July — Wales and the West

London — 6 August — The South

If your playing ability wins through at regional level and you become a regional champion, you will be invited to London for a week-end and the opportunity of an attempt at the title of **'Atari Player of the Year'**. Camden Palace, the futuristic night spot and space-age disco will be the venue for the national final and the day, **20 August**, will be surrounded by all the razzamataz and glamour of an exciting 'finale' to a testing competition.

The **Atari Player of the Year** will then go to Germany to Munich for the **Atari World Video Championship** to play **Centipede** against **Atari 'greats'** from all over the globe. The prize? — a seven day trip to the Los Angeles Summer Olympics for two, a special gold-medal and an **Atari 800** and software.

Interested? Can't wait? Think you've got the skill? Below is listed a summary of competition details — watch out in your local dealers for the posters and read the Bulletin for up to date reports and pictures.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Facts and Figures

CARTRIDGE

Phoenix — local

Ms Pac-Man — regional level

Centipede — at the national final

TIMING

Local entry in mid-May, all entries to be in by 8 June (at shop where you entered). Regional finals in July and August. International final 16 September, Munich.

ENTRY QUALIFICATION

Anyone can enter but only one entry per person — no age restriction — entries only on official Atari equipment and forms and under **'Atari Player of the Year'** Rules — the decision of the championship adjudicator is final.

GAME PLAY

10 minutes limit for one single game entry playing Phoenix variation 1, difficulty B; Ms Pac-Man variation 2, difficulty A; Centipede regular level, difficulty A.

PRIZES

Store level — entrance to regional levels. **Regional level** — finalists win a trip to London to the national final and a Centipede cartridge. **National level** — group of finalists win a \$200 Super Game VCS software PLUS the overall winners receive a trip to Munich to take part in the **World Video Championship** and an **800 Computer**. **International level** — an expenses paid trip for 2 to the **Los Angeles Summer Olympics** in 1984.

AND NOW FOR THE AVID ARCADE ADDICT . . .

TRAK-BALL™ — the new control from Atari, designed to bring arcade game reality into your own home. **TRAK-BALL™** is the rotating ball control feature, a long-time favourite of arcade game playing. With its rapid 360° control precision, it's a must for Atari enthusiasts. We know lots of you have been asking about it, well, at last here's the good news: **TRAK-BALL™** — soon be coming to the UK. More news later in your Owner's Club Bulletin.



WORK SHOP REPORTS . . .

We have become aware that some of you out there are mistaking the VCS Transformer for a three-pin standard mains plug. **WRONG !!!** This item converts the domestic 240 volt mains supply to the lowly 9 volts required to operate your unit. Please! Please! Please! Under no circumstances cut the wires on this item. If you experience a power problem within the guarantee period, the transformer will be replaced free of charge. If outside the guarantee period a new transformer will cost you £4.99.

Help us to help you. When sending your unit to the Atari Service Centre at Slough, or to any of our 57 Independent Service Centres, please include all your accessories. When consoles are returned without these items, we are sometimes unable to determine what the fault is because it concerns an accessory that hasn't been returned. So please, let's have all your bits when your unit fails!

ON THE TRAIL OF THE LOST ARK . . .

Nearly all Atari games are designed as "adventures" . . . there is always something new to discover not mentioned in the instruction booklets!!! **RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK** is probably our most challenging adventure game to date. Many a budding Indiana Jones loves the real concentration and creative thinking required to solve the puzzle, and so recover the elusive Lost Ark of the Covenant.

We have heard, however, that some of you are "tearing your hair out", frantically experimenting with new ideas as you try to solve **RAIDERS**. If this sounds like you, we've got good news. Atari has come to your rescue!

You can request a special "tips sheet" with seven helpful hints on solving the Raiders mystery. The "tips sheet" is available from the Raving Lunatic in the Black Market if you bribe him with a parachute and . . . only kidding! All you have to do is telephone our Customer Relations department on Slough (0753) 24561, and they'll send you the information free of charge! Good luck Indiana . . .

VANGUARD — CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG . . .

Some of you may have found inside your **VANGUARD** cartridge box a correction slip which states that the difficulty switches DO have a function in this game. Correction! As all budding Atarians have discovered, the difficulty switches are NOT, in fact used. We believe that the evil Gond planted these correction slips in the boxes of our top Atarians in order to get revenge!!!

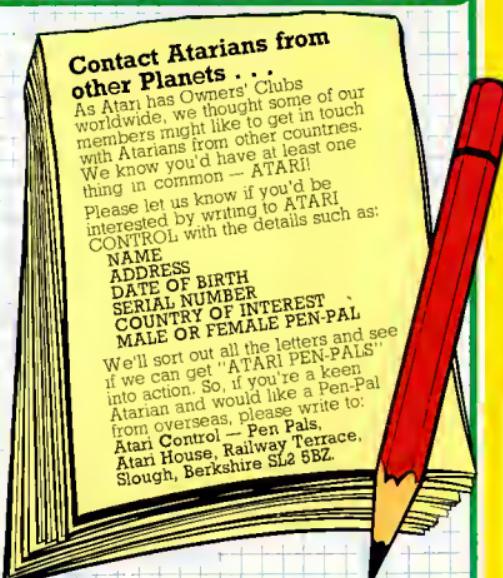
Contact Atarians from other Planets . . .

As Atari has Owners' Clubs worldwide, we thought some of our members might like to get in touch with Atarians from other countries. We know you'd have at least one thing in common — **ATARI**!

Please let us know if you'd be interested by writing to **ATARI CONTROL** with the details such as:

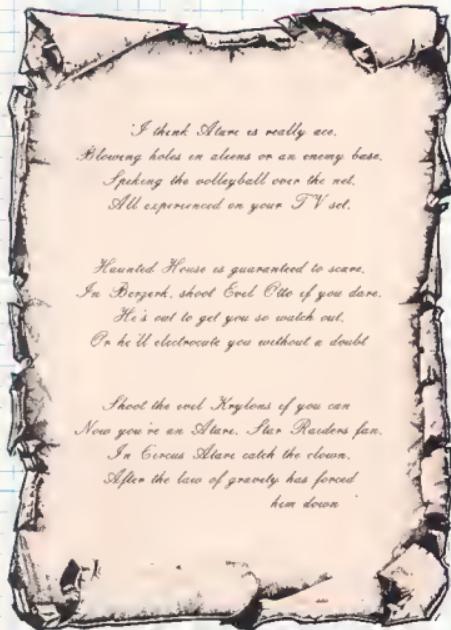
NAME
ADDRESS
DATE OF BIRTH
SERIAL NUMBER
COUNTRY OF INTEREST
MALE OR FEMALE PEN-PAL

We'll sort out all the letters and see if we can get "ATARI PEN-PALS" into action. So, if you're a keen Atarian and would like a Pen-Pal from overseas, please write to:
Atari Control — Pen Pals,
Atari House, Railway Terrace,
Slough, Berkshire SL2 5EZ.



We never knew we had so many talented Atarians in the Owner's Club. The letters have been flooding in, and it's great to hear how you are all getting on with your Atari.

Here's a super poem written by Andrew Taylor from Dudley, West Midlands:



We often get letters from our members asking about new cartridges coming out. Well, we have an exciting line-up for 1983, and hope to bring out 25/30 new video games. We are sure many of these will appeal to a lot of you, and we will be featuring details about all of them in your Owner's Club Bulletins. So don't worry, we won't let you miss out on any Atari news!

Also, some of you have written in asking about cartridges made by other companies. As Atari is completely separate from these, and we only make Atari cartridges, we cannot give you this information, because we simply don't have it!

Hope this clears up the confusion.

HIGH SCORE SPOT



In February's Bulletin (AB24) we asked if anyone could reach the 10 million barrier on **BERZERK**. We should have known that many of our highly skilled Atarians would manage this. Quite a few of you wrote in stating that you had beaten this score, but Andy Francis from Farnborough, Hampshire, has more than doubled it! He has clocked up 20,785,450 in 13 hours on Game One.

Another high scoring Atarian is Lee Jackson from Dunstable, Bedfordshire, who has beaten the record on **DEFENDER**. He has scored 53,032,231 in 41 hours on Game One.

FA first-time Owner's Club record has been set for **ET**. Paul Grant from Tadworth, Surrey, has helped "ET phone home" with 3,102,612 points in 4½ hours on Game One.

Great scores, lads! Congratulations from ATARI CONTROL. You'll all be receiving a prize and an Atan High Score Certificate.

A few words about the next HIGH SCORE SPOT. Here's something to really work for, Atarians! In AB25's HIGH SCORE SPOT we'll be featuring 3 cartridges: **PAC-MAN**, **ASTEROIDS** and **SPACE INVADERS**. We have chosen these ones this time as they are very popular games. We thought most of you would have at least one of them. All you have to do is score as many points as possible on Game One, Difficulty B in a time limit of 5 hours.

We are keeping the length of time fairly short, so that we don't upset your mums, but long enough to let you get some good scores. So, start practising, and let's see how well you can do. There's no need to rush — you've got until the end of June to send in your score. Even if you've written in before about your scores on these cartridges, please write in again! We'll sort all the scores out and whoever has the best score will be featured in the next Bulletin (AB26). There'll be a prize for the highest scorer and, of course, an Atari Certificate. We'll only be publishing **PAC-MAN**, **ASTEROIDS** and **SPACE INVADERS** in the AB26 Bulletin, so please don't send in any other game scores in the hope that they will be printed, because they won't. We'll choose some other games for future Bulletins, and try to include as many cartridges as we can. Perhaps you would like to suggest one of your favourites?

So, Good Luck to all Atarians! Please write your scores on a Post Card or Back of Envelope, stating: 1) Which Cartridge; 2) Points scored; 3) Game One; 4) Difficulty B; 5) Time (5 hours' maximum); 6) Signature of Adult Witness; 7) Your Name and Address.

Send your Post Card or Envelope to: ATARI CONTROL — HIGH SCORE SPOT, Atari House, Railway Terrace, Slough, Berkshire SL2 5BZ.

PS As a final word of warning — NO suspending, NO double bullets, NO re-setting or switching on and off in the middle of games, please!



Everyone had a really great time at the Atari Soccer Six Championship at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre on 25 and 26 January with all the razzmatazz of exciting football, a marching band, dry ice, electronic score board, giant Diamond Vision Screen and of course a chance to try out all the latest Atari video games and home computer programs.

Atari's sponsorship of the event attracted eight First Division teams to take part in the Championship and they rose to the occasion by providing skills and goals in abundance. In the fifteen matches, Arsenal, Ipswich Town, Swans, Everton, Southampton, Birmingham City, Manchester City and Nottingham Forest scored a staggering total of 76 goals at the rate of one every three minutes. The highest scorer in one single game was Mick Harford of Birmingham City who scored five out of the eight goals in a Group 2 game against Ipswich.

If you're not familiar with the game, Atari Soccer Six is very like the outdoor game, but there are, of course, only six players in each team on the pitch at any one time. However, the use of substitutes is unlimited, due to the extremely tough pace of the game. One of the big differences is naughty players are punished immediately with a couple of minutes in the "sin-bin". The electronic score board displays the sinner's name and a cartoon of him being given "six of the best" by an irate schoolmaster!

The referee has special hand signals to stop the clock or give a two-minute penalty and chief ref., George Courtney of Spennymoor, Co. Durham, became quite a favourite with the capacity crowds with his dramatic signalling.

GROUP ONE

ARSENAL

1 GEORGE WOOD
2 STEWART ROBSON
3 KELVIN BROWN
4 BRIAN TALBOT
5 STEPHEN COOPER
6 BRIAN McDERMOTT
7 VLADIMIR PETROVIC
8 STEPHEN HARDE
9 COLIN BILL
10 JOHN KAY

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

1 STEPHEN SWAIN
2 VIV ANDERSON
3 STEPHEN COOPER
4 IAN BOWTER
5 COLIN BILL
6 JOHN ROBERTSON
7 IAN WALLACE
8 STEPHEN HARDE
10 STEVE BOOCHE

EVERTON

1 JIM ARNOLO
2 GARY STEVENS
3 STEPHEN COOPER
4 MARK BIGGINS
5 STEPHEN COOPER
6 KELVIN SHELDY
7 KEVIN RICHARDSON
8 STEPHEN HARDE
9 GRAEME SHARP
10 ADRIAN HEATH

SOUTHAMPTON

1 STEPHEN SWAIN
2 REUBEN AGBOOLA
3 MICK MILLER
4 STEPHEN COOPER
5 MARK WRIGHT
6 STEPHEN COOPER
7 DAVID WALLACE
8 DAVID PUCKETT
9 STEPHEN HARDE
10 DAVID ARMSTRONG

REFEREES: GEORGE COURTNEY (Spennymoor, Co. Durham); COLIN GOWNEY

GROUP ONE P W D L F A Pts

ARSENAL	3	2	1	0	6	2	13
NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3	2	0	1	6	6	12
SOUTHAMPTON	3	1	0	2	7	7	10
EVERTON	3	0	1	2	2	6	3

SEMI FINALS

ARSENAL

IPSWICH	3	[Match Result Line]			
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BIRMINGHAM CITY

NOTTINGHAM FOREST	3	[Match Result Line]			
(4-3 to Birmingham City on penalties)					

One of the spectators famous for drama was Nottingham Forest's manager, Brian Clough. He was seen on the night of the finals sporting wellies and a flat cap, apparently just come from a day's fishing!

The excitement in the NEC was kept at fever pitch right up to the end of the finals between Ipswich and home team, Birmingham City, when the score was two-all. What a shudder of tension rang round the arena as the culmination of these two exciting evenings had to be decided on penalties. Throughout the Championship Birmingham City's goalie, Tony Coton, had saved an amazing amount of penalties. Would this luck remain with him to bring his team this coveted title?

With the help of the deafening home support, Tony's luck didn't run out and Alan Curbishley's superb team romped home victoriously to win the Atari Soccer-Six Trophy by six goals to four.



Birmingham City — The Winners.

GROUP TWO

IPSWICH TOWN

1 TONY COTON
2 JIM BAGAN
3 STEPHEN COOPER
4 BYRON STEVENSON
5 NORMAN PARKER
6 MICK HARFORD
7 KEVIN O'LIOLAN
8 DAVID HOLLOWAY
9 HOWARD GAYLE
10 IAN HANNOYSESIDE

MANCHESTER CITY

1 ALEX WILLIAMS
2 DAVID COOPER
3 KEVIN BOND
4 STEPHEN COOPER
5 PAUL POWER
6 TOMMY COOPER
7 STEPHEN COOPER
8 KEVIN BEEVES
9 STEPHEN COOPER
10 IAN HANNOYSESIDE

SWANSEA CITY

1 CHRIS SANDER
2 DAVID COOPER
3 CHRIS MARSHALL
4 STEPHEN COOPER
5 STEPHEN COOPER
6 ANTO RAJKOVIC
7 STEPHEN COOPER
8 KEREMY CHARLES
9 ALAN CURRIS
10 BOB LATCHFORD

Hannover, Middlesex); JOHN MARTIN (Aston, Hants); JOE WORRAL (Warrington)

GROUP TWO P W D L F A Pts

IPSWICH TOWN	3	2	2	0	12	8
MANCHESTER CITY	3	1	1	1	8	9
SWANSEA	3	0	1	2	2	3

FINAL

IPSWICH

BIRMINGHAM CITY	2	[Match Result Line]			
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(4-3 to Birmingham City on penalties)

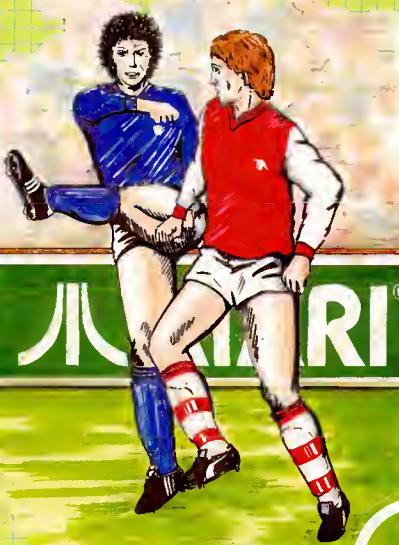
WINNER



Barry Davies and Graham Clark M.D. of Atari (UK).



Ipswich — Runners-up receiving their prizes from Graham Clark.





MEMBER GET MEMBER



Your chance to enter a draw to win ONE OF EVERY ATARI CARTRIDGE RELEASED IN 1984.

Introducing friends who either own an Atari, but does not belong to the Atari VCS Owner's Club, or a friend who buys a New Atari VCS and joins the VCS Owner's Club.

Both you and the New Member will get a T-shirt each on receipt of your introduction, then both your names go into the bag for THE GRAND DRAW on October 31st 1983.

This is what you do:

1. Keep the envelope your bulletin arrived in. Write on the sides with your address, the following information: a) Your T-shirt size and b) Your Atari VCS Serial Number (to be found under the console marked SN).
2. On the reverse side of your envelope, print in block capitals a) Name of the person you are introducing.
b) Address and postal ceds.

T-shirt Size (S/M/L) _____

Serial Number _____



JOHN SMITH
100 Anywhere Avenue
Sometown



c) Their Atari VCS Serial Number.

d) Their size of T-shirt, S/M/L.

e) Their name of Birth.

Post this into an envelope addressed to:

ATARI CONTROL - INTRO

Atari House, Railway Terrace, Slough, Berks SL2 5BZ.

Should you wish to introduce more than one person, please use a separate sheet of paper per person you introduce. Please carry out the same instructions, only remember you will have to print your name and address on one side, as well as T-shirt size and VCS Serial Number.

With a New Buyer of an Atari VCS you will need to enclose their membership card (filled in) with your envelope/place of purchase. REMEMBER THE MORE INTRODUCTIONS YOU MAKE, THE BETTER YOUR CHANCE IS OF BEING DRAWN ON THE 31st OCTOBER 1983.

T-shirt Size (S/M/L) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Serial No. _____

Doodle Corner

WORD SEARCH

BASKETBALL, BERZERK, BREAKOUT,
DEFENDER, MISSILE COMMAND, NIGHT
DRIVER, OUTLAW, PAC-MAN, SLOTH
RACER, VOLLEYBALL, WARCLOUDS.

This Word Search has been sent in by Ian Sykes from Bradford, West Yorkshire. As our last one proved so popular, we thought you might like to try this one in your spare time. No prizes this time, I'm afraid!

B	A	B	C	Z	D	Q	E	W	F	X	C	Y	D
E	S	R	E	V	I	R	D	T	H	C	I	N	E
R	S	E	P	D	I	E	X	C	H	R	A	N	F
Z	P	A	C	M	A	N	D	T	S	M	P	O	E
E	R	K	A	L	L	A	V	U	M	T	B	V	N
R	T	O	W	A	L	T	U	O	H	C	A	O	D
K	T	U	P	A	U	O	C	Z	L	B	S	S	E
V	H	T	S	E	R	E	R	K	T	L	K	S	R
E	O	T	S	Y	L	L	V	A	M	H	E	H	D
B	R	D	X	I	S	I	O	P	D	I	I	P	O
T	L	A	S	R	D	I	E	R	L	V	R	I	E
X	D	S	O	Y	P	C	N	O	D	D	R	R	E
A	I	R	L	C	A	R	T	O	L	S	L	M	W
M	O	V	O	L	Y	E	B	A	L	L	S	S	S

We have had many people sending in their answers to the AB24 Crossword. This was quite surprising really, as it wasn't a competition! However, thanks for your enthusiastic support, and sorry we can't give away any prizes. But, as you all seem to like puzzles, here are some anagrams for you to solve. Some of these were sent in by Simon Peck (please let us know your address, as you didn't write it on your letter) and the rest come to you straight from ATARI CONTROL. We hope you have fun sorting them out. See how quickly you can unscramble them. It's not an Owner's Club competition, so don't send in your answers, please.

ALLBTKSBAE SEHHUANTOEDU
SRDARTSIÄRE VRGNIHIRDTE
RIOSDTSAE RDUNOSRU
SRLOWRAD LOTLEHO
LOWBNGI EGSAYNVRREE
CRECOSEPLES SRFIUWNUHMEBNT

ATARI CONTROL



Hi there! I'm Jackie — I've recently joined Atari Control as Club Co-ordinator. I'm busy processing all the Atari accessory orders, and would be very grateful if you could put your address on the back of your cheques. Please call me if you require any more order forms.



To all Atarians competing in The National Association of Boys' Clubs Defender Competition — Good Luck — We look forward to the finals, which are being held in London during July — Come along and you have had plenty of practice. Results will be printed in our next Bulletin.

Atari at Ideal Home



Modern Romance

Hello again, Atarians!

Well, we've done it again — FIVE New Cartridge Releases this issue, and with them comes YOUR chance of setting the highest score. So be a pacesetter and get your High Score on the New Cartridges in to Louise, as soon as possible.

Hands on joysticks, start practising for the 'Atari Player of the Year' competition. You may recall that last year's winner Craig Heap went on to be International Pac-Man Champion, so let's see if the UK can make it two in a row.

Don't forget the Owners' Club Accessory Offers, and let us know if you require more order forms. By the way, for our members in the Republic of Ireland, we have organized access to these items through your local Atari Agent, for more details please ring Catherine Bent on (01) 521036. All members, please note that Atari Dust Covers GC833 are no longer available. (We are looking for more and will let you know through the Bulletin).

We're sure you'll like the new pull-out Poster/Calendar, which should look great on your wall, and be sure to fill the 'Atari Player of the Year' venues, we don't want you missing out.

On a closing point, we look forward every day to receiving your letters, so keep them rolling in. Is there anything you would like to see more of? And don't forget the chance of winning ALL the 1984 Cartridges just by introducing ONE New Member (details on page 6). Until our next Bulletin! HANDS ON!!!

Editor.

The Atari Centre at Switzers

The Atari Centre has opened at Switzers of Grafton St., Dublin. It stocks the latest VCS cartridges, the 400 and 800 Home Computers and all the computer software. It is the place to go for information on new releases and promotions or why not try your hand at an Atari Home Computer. The Atari Centre is waiting for you to visit.



Attention Republic of Ireland

You now have your own base, ready to help with your queries or to obtain the Atari Owner's Club Offers. For more details, ring or write to:

Catherine Bent
45 Cookstown Estate, Tallaght, Co. Dublin
Telephone (01) 521036



PHILIPPA KEARNEY
VCS Owner
Club Manager



LOUISE EAST
Am. VCS
Club Manager



JACKIE BENT
VCS Club
Co-ordinator

ATARI CONTROL (remember your codes)
RAILWAY TERRACE,
SLOUGH, BERKS. SL2 5RZ (0753) 33344